

Application No. 09/848,777

Filed: May 4, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1641

Amendment to the Claims

Please cancel claim 17, without prejudice. ✓

Please amend claims 9, 14, 15, 16 and 18 as indicated below:

Claim 1. (Previously Amended) The liquid composition of claim 16, further comprising

replicate copies of a biomolecule, wherein said biomolecules are distributed throughout said colloidal suspension and are bound to said matrix material particles.

Claim 2. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein said biomolecule-binding matrix material is nitrocellulose, polyvinyl difluoride or activated nylon.

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B  
Claim 3. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein said biomolecule is a biopolymer.

Claim 4. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein said biomolecule is a nucleic acid or oligonucleotide.

Claim 5. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein said biomolecule is a protein or oligopeptide.

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Claim 6. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein said biomolecules are uniformly distributed throughout said colloidal suspension.

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Claim 7. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein more than one species of biomolecule is distributed throughout said colloidal suspension and bound to said matrix material particles.

Claim 8. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 7, wherein said more than one species of biomolecule comprise two or more different biomolecule probes.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim 17, wherein said more than one species of biomolecule comprise one or more biomolecule probes and a blocking biomolecule, wherein said blocking biomolecule blocks sites on said biomolecule-binding matrix material not occupied by said one or more biomolecule probes.

Claim 10. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein said binding of said biomolecules is covalent binding.

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Claim 11. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein said binding of said biomolecules is non-covalent binding.

Claim 12. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein said binding of said biomolecules is electrostatic binding.

Claim 13. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein said binding of said biomolecules is adsorption onto a surface of said matrix material particles.

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Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein a first reference dye is distributed throughout said colloidal suspension and wherein ~~the~~a concentration of said first reference dye has a known quantitative relationship with ~~the~~a concentration of said biomolecule-binding matrix material.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein a second reference dye is distributed throughout said colloidal suspension and wherein ~~the~~a concentration of said second reference dye has a known quantitative relationship with said biomolecule.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A liquid composition comprising a colloidal suspension of a biomolecule-binding matrix material dispersed in a liquid, wherein particles of said matrix material in said colloidal suspension are of a defined particle size and wherein said biomolecule-binding matrix material is nitrocellulose, polyvinyl difluoride or activated nylon.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

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Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim 16, wherein a reference dye is distributed throughout said colloidal suspension and wherein ~~the~~a concentration of said reference dye has a known quantitative relationship with ~~the~~a concentration of said biomolecule-binding matrix material.

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Claim 19. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 16, wherein said particles of matrix material have a diameter of less than 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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Claim 20. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 16, wherein said particles of matrix material have a diameter of less than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 21. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 16, wherein said particles of matrix material have a diameter of less than 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 30. (Original) A powder of microfine particles, said powder comprising an aliquot of the liquid composition of claim 1 or claim 16 from which liquid has been removed.

Claim 31. (Original) The powder of claim 30, wherein said particles have a diameter of less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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Claim 32. (Original) The powder of claim 30, wherein said particles have a diameter of between 100 and 500 nm.